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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **ELECTROKINETIC LIMITED** [GB/GB]; Nanotechnology Centre, Herschel Building, Newcastle University, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 7RU (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

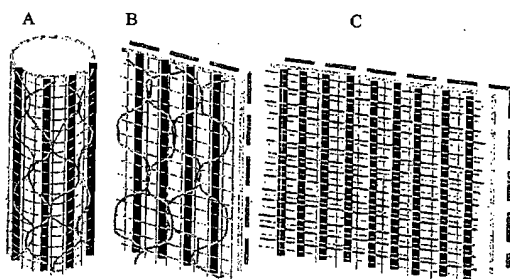
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **JONES, Collin, John, Francis, Phillip** [GB/GB]; 116 The Mount, York YO24 1AS (GB). **LAMONT-BLACK, John** [GB/GB]; 5 Archibald Street, Gosforth, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE3 1EB (GB). **GLENDINNING, Stephanie** [GB/GB]; 10 Lucombe Close, Biddick Woods, Houghton-Le-Spring, Tyne & Wear DH4 7T (GB). **FOURIE, Andrew** [ZA/ZA]; 21 Cardiff Road, Parkwood, 2193 Johannesburg (ZA).

(74) Agent: **NOVAGRAAF PATENTS LIMITED**; The Crescent, 54 Blossom Street, York YO24 1AP (GB).

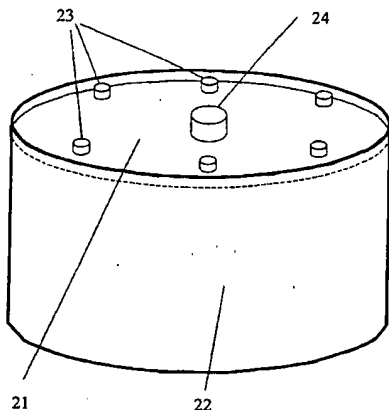
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(54) Title: WASTE AND TAILINGS DEWATERING TREATMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD



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(57) Abstract: An apparatus and method are described for reducing the liquid content of a material comprising a particulate/liquid dispersion or suspension, in particular comprising a dispersion or suspension of inorganic particles being a byproduct of mining, manufacturing or other industrial processes. The apparatus comprising a receiving zone to contain the material, at least one pair of electrodes spaced apart within the receiving zone, means to apply a potential difference thereacross and hence across the material in use to drive electrokinetic dewatering, and drainage means to enable removal of water, wherein at least one of the electrodes comprises a textile or other synthetic material at least in part associated with a conductor so as to constitute where so associated a conducting electrokinetic textile or other synthetic material. The method makes use of the apparatus, in situ or at a remote site either as a batch or continuous process.



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